

## CLAIMS

1. A method of encoding words for language teaching comprising the steps of identifying a plurality of different vowel sounds, representing each different vowel sound by a first indicia and a second indicia, storing the different first and second indicias for each vowel sound, identifying a plurality of different consonant sounds, representing each consonant sound by a third indicia and a selection of consonant sounds by a fourth indicia, storing the third and fourth indicia for each consonant sound, identifying a plurality of different silent letters occurring in words, representing each silent letter by a fifth indicia and storing the fifth indicias for each silent letter whereby a word is represented by a combination of the first to fifth indicia.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the selection of consonant sounds comprises consonant diagraphs.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the first indicia comprises a number.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 3 wherein the second indicia comprises a colour.

5. The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the second indicia comprises a single colour.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 5 wherein the third indicia comprises a colour.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the third indicia comprises a single colour.

8. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 7 wherein the fourth indicia comprises an underscore located underneath consonant diagraphs.

9. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 7 wherein the fourth indicia comprises a symbol.

10. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 7 wherein the fifth indicia comprises a single colour.

11. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 10

wherein a word is represented by a combination of letters and indicia.

12. The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the letters are represented by a colour indicative of the 5 second, fourth or fifth indicia by which they are represented.

13. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 12 including the step of representing a group of consonant sounds by a sixth indicia and storing the sixth indicia 10 for each consonant sound represented.

14. The method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the sixth indicia comprises a notation indicative of the pronunciation of the consonant sound.

15. A system for teaching a language comprising a database which stores a plurality of different vowel sounds, with each vowel sound represented by a first indicia and a second indicia, a plurality of different consonant sounds, with each consonant sound represented by a third indicia and a selection of consonant sounds by a 20 fourth indicia, a plurality of different silent letters occurring in words, with each silent letter represented by a fifth indicia, and a plurality of different words, a conversion means which converts each word into a converted form comprising the indicia and a display means which 25 displays a word in converted form, and wherein the conversion means is adapted to convert a word input into the system and utilise the display means to display the word in converted form.

16. A method of displaying words for language 30 teaching, comprising the steps of identifying a word, encoding the word into a plurality of indicia components and displaying the encoded word comprising indicia components, wherein the plurality of indicia comprise a first and second indicia representing different vowel sounds, third indicia representing different consonant sounds, fourth indicia representing a selection of consonant sounds and fifth indicia representing different 35

silent letters occurring in words.

17. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 15 including the step of display a matrix with sounds of one type along one axis and sounds of another type along

5 another.

18. The method as claimed in claim 17 including displaying a composite of sounds from each axis by a zone corresponding to a point of intersection of the sounds on the grid.

10 19. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 16 including the step of searching for words including at least one of the indicia, vowel sounds, consonants, consonant diagraphs, silent letters.